

REMARKS

Initially, this Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of January 29, 2004. However, the January 29, 2004 Office Action fails to address Applicants remarks submitted on November 3, 2003 and, therefore, those Remarks are resubmitted herewith.

Claims 46-61 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-45 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 46-61 are presented in a bonafide attempt to place the application in condition for allowance. Support for these claims can be found in the original claims and specification as filed and, therefore, no new matter has been added by these or any previous amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action of May 2, 2003 rejected claims 20, 22, 23, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. While applicants do not concede the Examiner's position with respect to those rejections, it is believed that the amendments submitted herewith render those rejections moot. Therefore, any outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 102(e)

The Office Action of May 2, 2003 further rejected Claims 20-34 pursuant to either 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by each of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,137,848; 6,439,943; 4,260,406; 5,814,571; 5,173,457; 6,399,230 and 5,312,674. To that end, it is well established that in order for a reference to be deemed anticipatory it must disclose every feature recited in the rejected claim. For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that this standard has not been met and, therefore, any outstanding novelty rejections pursuant to either 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 102(e) should be withdrawn.

As amended, Claim 46 of the instant application recites, in relevant part, a paste composition for forming a ceramic composite comprising at least one frit glass wherein the paste composition is capable of being directly deposited onto a plastic substrate and wherein the at least one frit glass has a melting point low enough that the paste composition is capable of being subsequently processed under conditions effective to provide a composite without inflicting heat related damage to the plastic substrate. Although each of the above-referenced U.S. patents disclose various paste compositions, none of the references disclose or even suggest a paste composition which is comprised of least one frit glass having a melting point low enough that the paste composition is capable of being subsequently processed under conditions effective to provide a composite without inflicting heat related damage to **the plastic substrate**. As such, each of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,137,848; 6,439,943; 4,260,406; 5,814,571; 5,173,457; 6,399,230 and 5,312,674 fails to disclose every feature recited in Claim 46 of the instant application. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the novelty rejections pursuant to either 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 102(e) should be withdrawn and new Claims 46-61 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the Amendments and Remarks set out above, it is respectfully asserted that the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated May 2, 2003 have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully seek notification of same.

No additional fees are believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

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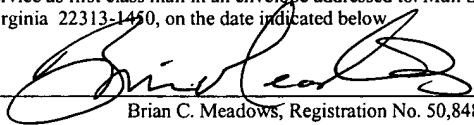


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Date